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NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY IN KANSAS CITY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that 17 individuals were indicted on Jan. 7, 2005 by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kan.. Those indicted include:

Laury Louise Reed, 41, **Eric Jason Klein**, 41; **Pamela Sue Holloman**, 41, Osowatomie, Kan.; and **Angela Marie Stevenson**, 31, Kansas City, Mo., who are charged in an identity theft case that includes stolen mail, forgery and bank fraud.

According to the indictment, the defendants:

- Stole mail from U.S. Postal Service collection boxes.
- Searched through stolen mail for envelopes containing personal and business checks.
- Produced counterfeit personal and business checks.
- Created false identification documents.
- Obtained false identification from state driver's licensing authorities.
- Used false identification documents to purchase items at retail stores with counterfeit checks.
- Used false identification documents to cash counterfeit checks at financial institutions.
- Forged the name of individuals on counterfeit checks.

The indictment also alleges that on April 13, 2001 Eric Jason Klein possessed the following items: an adhesive pest trap attached to a fishing pole with an article of mail stuck to the adhesive pest trap, glue remover, three false identification documents with Klein's photo and another individual's name, blank counterfeit personal checks and opened envelopes with uncanceled postage.

Reed is charged with three counts of passing forged and counterfeit checks and two

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counts of identity theft. Klein is charged with two counts of passing forged and counterfeit checks, one count of possession of stolen mail and three counts of identity theft.. Holloman is charged with two counts of passing forged and counterfeit checks and two counts of identity theft. Stevenson also is charged with one count of passing a forged and counterfeit check and three counts of identity theft.

The maximum penalty for each count of passing a forged and counterfeit check is 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Possession of stolen mail carries a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Each count of identity theft carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Lenexa Police Department, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Overland Park Police Department, the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force, the Kansas City Police Department, the Osawatomie Police Department and the Independence, Mo. Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask is prosecuting.

Michael E. Diesel, St. Marys, Kan., who is charged with filing false income tax returns for calendar years 1998, 1999 and 2000.

According the indictment, Diesel's taxable income for 1998 was approximately \$439,049; for 1999 approximately \$1.5 million; and for 2000 approximately \$1.7 million. According to the indictment, he reported taxable income of \$103,549 in 1998; \$106,754 in 1999; and \$108,788 in 2000.

If convicted, he faces up to three years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton is prosecuting.

Kenneth T. Mize, 22, Belton, Mo., who is charged with traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor on Jan. 6, 2005.

If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger is prosecuting.

Julian Ramirez, 43, Los Angeles, **Jose Luis Morales-Morales**, 49, a citizen of Mexico, **William Ruben Rodriguez-Recino**, 32, a citizen of Guatemala, and **Patricia Lynn Richardson**, 40, a resident of New Mexico, each of whom is charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute more than 5,000 pounds of marijuana and one count of possession with intent to distribute more than 1,700 pounds of marijuana on Dec. 16, 2004.

If convicted on the conspiracy charge, they each face not less than 10 years in federal prison and not more than life, and a \$4 million fine. If convicted on the possession charge, they each face a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal

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prison, and a \$2 million fine.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Tris Hunt is prosecuting.

Ervin R. Crow, 36, Lawrence, Kan., who is charged with one count of bank robbery. According to the indictment, Crow used force, violence and intimidation to take \$3,062 on Dec. 3, 2004 from the Midwest Regional Credit Union, 1015 W. 6th in Lawrence, Kan.

If convicted, Crow faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Luis Hernandez-Leon, 32, who is not a resident of the United States, is charged with one count of illegally reentering the United States after having been convicted of an aggravated felony and deported April 11, 2003.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Javier Juarez-Ramirez, 28, who is not a United States citizen, is charged with illegally reentering the United States after he was convicted of an aggravated felony and deported on March 8, 2000. He was found in the United States on Nov. 15, 2004 in Kansas City, Kan.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Jorge Penades-Aguirre, 31, who is a citizen of Mexico, is charged with illegally reentering the United States after being convicted of an aggravated felony and deported. He was arrested in Wichita, Kan.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

Lavon A. Crockett, who is charged with one count of possessing with intent to distribute more than 39 grams of crack cocaine. The offense is alleged to have occurred Dec. 11, 2004 in Kansas City, Kan.

If convicted, Crockett faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years in federal prison and not more than 40 years and a \$2 million fine.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Tris Hunt is prosecuting.

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Caleb Kanatzer, 24, an inmate of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., who is charged with assaulting a correctional officer Michael Erdley while Erdley was performing official duties.

If convicted, Kanatzer faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger is prosecuting.

Samuel L. Philpot, 43, Leavenworth, Kan., who is charged with attempting to provide crack cocaine to Steve Campbell, an inmate at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kan., on Dec. 18, 2004; and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on the charge of attempting to provide drugs to an inmate; and up to 10 years and a \$4 million fine on the drug possession charge. For a defendant with a prior felony drug conviction, the maximum penalty increases to not more than 20 years in federal prison and an \$8 million fine.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger is prosecuting.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.